

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 191202Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6173

INFO RUMMJNAXCOMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ(TAKESHITA NAMED CONSTRUCTION MINISTER

REF: TOKYO 676

1. PRIMIN MIKI JANUARY 18 PICKED LDP LOWER HOUSE DIET-
MAN NOBORU TAKESHITA (SHIMANE PREFECTURE, TANAKA FACTION)
TO BE NEW CONSTRUCTION MINISTER REPLACING THE LATE TADAO KARIYA.
TANAKA FACTION AT FIRST
PRESENTED TWO LESSER CANDIDATES, BUT FINALLY
ACQUIESCED IN MIKI'S CHOICE OF FACTION STRONGMAN
TAKESHITA.

2. TAKESHITA, 51, A WASEDA GRADUATE IN HIS SIXTH LOWER
HOUSE TERM, HAS HAD AN IMPRESSIVE PARTY AND DIET CAREET,
AND IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE PRIMIN MATERIAL FOR 1980S.
HE IS NOW THIRD RANKING MEMBER OF TANAKA FACTION. AN
EARLY DISCIPLE OF TANAKA, TAKESHITA QUICKLY BUILT
EXCELLENT RELATIONS BOTH WITHIN LDP AND WITH OPPOSITION
PARTY DIETMEN DURING SERVICE FIRST AS LDP DIET POLICY
COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND LATER AS CHIEF CABINET
SECRETARY IN LAST SATO AND TANAKA CABINETS. MANY SOURCES
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SAY HE DOES HIS DIET HOMEWORK, INCLUDING STUDY OF COM-

PLICATED POLICY PROPOSALS, MUCH MORE THOROUGHLY THAN MOST.

3. COMMENT. FOR PRESENT, TAKESHITA SELECTION PRESERVES
FACTIONAL BALANCE OF MIKI CABINET AND TANAKA FACTION'S
TRADITIONAL ARMLOCK ON CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY, OVERSEER
OF JAPAN'S LARGEST PORK BARREL. GIVEN HIS BUREAUCRATIC
EXPERTISE AND WIDE CIRCLE OF DIET RELATIONSHIPS,
TAKESHITA SHOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO MIKI'S
CABINET, WITH POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING MIKI'S DIET
MANAGEMENT. FACT THAT TANAKA ALLOWED TAKESHITO TO JOINING
CABINET MAY ALSO BE INTERPRETED HERE AS FURTHER SIGN OF
DE FACTO TANAKA SUPPORT FOR MIKI REGIME.
SHOESMITH

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